

RESULTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

CWS Redesign is about results for California's children and families! Protecting children, strengthening families and supporting youth are at its core.

As a comprehensive blueprint for action, Redesign is based on the recommendations of the individuals and organizations that will help ensure its successful implementation. Through an integrated set of policy shifts, practice improvements, alignment of partners, systems and communities, and new accountability structures, the CWS Redesign seeks to fundamentally transform child welfare services in California. It is a multi-year effort rooted deeply in county-level and partner collaboration.

The following list summarizes key results that can be expected over time and key activities that will support their achievement.

- **Children are Safer:** Fewer and less severe reports of child maltreatment are made to CWS hotlines and any incidence of foster children being maltreated continues to be intolerable.
 - ✓ New intake process (enhanced telephone hotline, use of multi-disciplinary team to customize assessment and response)
 - ✓ Standardized assessment of family safety, risk and protective capacity
 - ✓ Provides community-based prevention strategies
- **Families are Stronger:** More families are able to safely and consistently care for their children as a result of their involvement with CWS and its service partners. Parents are treated with dignity and empowered to help resolve their own challenges and plan their own futures.
 - ✓ Increased focus on prevention and early intervention
 - ✓ Sustained, flexible funding for provision of services
 - ✓ Engages families (group decision-making, family resource centers)
 - ✓ Uses multi-disciplinary teams to support families
 - ✓ Involves extended families
 - ✓ Provides community network of services and support
- **Youth are Supported:** Youth in foster care receive the financial and emotional support they need to become successful adults.
 - ✓ Involves youth in planning for their future
 - ✓ Provides “guaranteed preparation package” at age 18
 - ✓ Provides services and opportunities to prepare youth for adulthood
 - ✓ Ensures lifelong connections to a caring adult

- **Services are More Responsive:** Children and families at risk receive the services they need when they need them without the threat of removal.
 - ✓ Improved partnerships between CWS, other public agencies and contracted service providers
 - ✓ Diverting families in which child safety is not an immediate threat from the court system and engaging them as partners using methods such as family group decision-making
 - ✓ Relies on less adversarial methods of working with families
- **Results are More Fair & Equitable:** All families facing similar challenges experience equally positive benefits as a result of their encounters with CWS and its service partners.
 - ✓ Provides standardized practice approaches to equity to reduce disproportional representation of African-American and Native American children in CWS
 - ✓ Changes dynamic of bias through workforce training and partnerships
 - ✓ Measures results and uses information to improve outcomes for all families and children
- **Children Experience Greater Stability:** Children who cannot be cared for safely and consistently by their parents gain permanent families through adoption or guardianship in greater numbers and more quickly.
 - ✓ Promotes permanent homes for each child (by adoption, guardianship, returning home, or other alternatives) as quickly as possible
 - ✓ Uses team decision-making to reduce the number of placements
 - ✓ Improves training and support of foster families
 - ✓ Prioritizes birth family connections
- **Communities Share Responsibility for Child Welfare:** Communities are more involved in protecting children and strengthening families.
 - ✓ Establishes partnerships at state, county and neighborhood levels
 - ✓ Shares responsibility for child and family well-being with communities
- **Workforce Demonstrates Excellence:** All levels of the workforce that carry out the functions of child welfare, including CWS and its public and private partners, have the capacity, training and support to be effective in helping children and families reach positive outcomes.
 - ✓ Supports manageable caseloads and links to outcomes
 - ✓ Expands workforce capacity
 - ✓ Provides integrated learning systems
 - ✓ Improves training and support of the workforce at all levels

For more information about CWS Redesign, visit www.dss.cahwnet.gov.